

January 9, 2003

**ATTORNEY GENERAL FILES CONSUMER FRAUD ACTION  
AGAINST CONTRACTOR JACK HUFT**

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem's Consumer Protection Division has filed a consumer fraud action against Jack Huft doing business as Basic Heating, Air and Complete Mobile Home Service of Bismarck. Defendant Huft is engaged in general contracting, plumbing and mobile home repairs and services.

Parrell Grossman, Director of the Consumer Protection, has asked the court for a Preliminary Injunction enjoining and restraining Jack Huft from engaging in plumbing, accepting any advance payments for work and advertising or representing to consumers that he is a licensed plumber.

The complaint alleges that Huft has engaged in numerous deceptive acts or practices including engaging in plumbing without a state license, misrepresenting the charges for his work and advertising he is a licensed plumber when, in fact, he is not licensed. "I am very concerned about Mr. Huft's fraudulent business activities and we have taken immediate action to ensure that additional consumers are not harmed," Stenehjem said. The consumer complaints allege Huft increases his job price after he has commenced work, requires advance payments and fails to properly complete the plumbing work or the plumbing work completed is substandard.

"Consumers allege that, after paying Huft, they then had to pay hundreds of additional dollars to have Mr. Huft's plumbing work either properly completed or re-done," Grossman said. "Mr. Huft's plumbing activities also raise potential health and safety concerns. One of Mr. Huft's Bismarck plumbing customers was without running water in her home for ten days. In another instance, Mr. Huft installed in one mobile home a water heater that was not approved for mobile home use," he continued.

Stenehjem's lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction, restitution and civil penalties. "Our investigation and legal action will protect additional consumers from Mr. Huft," Stenehjem said. "Mr. Huft will not be allowed to continue engaging in illegal plumbing or making misrepresentations to consumers."

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